BEAM DESIGN FORMULAS WITH SHEAR AND MOMENT DIAGRAMS



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DESIGN AID No. 6

BEAM FORMULAS WITH SHEAR AND MOMENT DIAGRAMS

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Introduction

Figures 1 through 32 provide a series of shear and moment diagrams with accompanying formulas for design of beams under various static loading conditions.

Shear and moment diagrams and formulas are excerpted from the *Western Woods Use Book*, 4th edition, and are provided herein as a courtesy of **Western Wood Products Association**.

Notations Relative to "Shear and Moment Diagrams"

- E =modulus of elasticity, psi
- I =moment of inertia, in.⁴
- L = span length of the bending member, ft.
- ℓ = span length of the bending member, in.
- M = maximum bending moment, in.-lbs.
- P = total concentrated load, lbs.
- R = reaction load at bearing point, lbs.
- V = shear force, lbs.
- W = total uniform load, lbs.
- w =load per unit length, lbs./in.
- Δ = deflection or deformation, in.
- x = horizontal distance from reaction to point on beam, in.

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Figure 1 Simple Beam – Uniformly Distributed Load





Figure 2 Simple Beam – Uniform Load Partially Distributed





$$R_{1} = V_{1} (\max \text{ when } a < c) \dots = \frac{wb}{2\ell}(2c + b)$$

$$R_{2} = V_{2} (\max \text{ when } a > c) \dots = \frac{wb}{2\ell}(2a + b)$$

$$V_{x} (\text{when } x > a \text{ and } < (a + b)) \dots = R_{1} - w (x - a)$$

$$M_{\max} \left(\text{at } x = a + \frac{R_{1}}{w} \right) \dots = R_{1} \left(a + \frac{R_{1}}{2w} \right)$$

$$M_{x} (\text{when } x < a) \dots = R_{1}x$$

$$M_{x} (\text{when } x > a \text{ and } < (a + b)) \dots = R_{1}x - \frac{w}{2}(x - a)^{2}$$

$$M_{x} (\text{when } x > (a + b)) \dots = R_{2}(\ell - x)$$

Figure 3 Simple Beam – Uniform Load Partially Distributed at One End



$$R_{1} = V_{1} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{wa}{2\ell} (2\ell - a)$$

$$R_{2} = V_{2} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{wa^{2}}{2\ell}$$

$$V_{x} \text{ (when } x < a) \qquad \dots \qquad = R_{1} - wx$$

$$M_{max} \left(\text{at } x = \frac{R_{1}}{w} \right) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{R_{1}^{2}}{2w}$$

$$M_{x} \text{ (when } x < a) \qquad \dots \qquad = R_{1}x - \frac{wx^{2}}{2}$$

$$M_{x} \text{ (when } x > a) \qquad \dots \qquad = R_{2}(\ell - x)$$

$$\Delta_{x} \text{ (when } x < a) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{wx}{24 \text{ El}\ell} \left(a^{2}(2\ell - a)^{2} - 2ax^{2}(2\ell - a) + \ell x^{3} \right)$$

$$\Delta_{x} \text{ (when } x > a) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{wa^{2}(\ell - x)}{24 \text{ El}\ell} (4x\ell - 2x^{2} - a^{2})$$

Figure 4 Simple Beam – Uniform Load Partially Distributed at Each End





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Figure 5 Simple Beam – Load Increasing Uniformly to One End



Figure 6 Simple Beam – Load Increasing Uniformly to Center



$$R = V \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{W}{2}$$

$$V_{x} \left(\text{when } x < \frac{\ell}{2} \right) \qquad = \frac{W}{2\ell^{2}} (\ell^{2} - 4x^{2})$$

$$M_{\text{max}} (\text{at center}) \qquad = \frac{W\ell}{6}$$

$$M_{x} \left(\text{when } x < \frac{\ell}{2} \right) \qquad = Wx \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2x^{2}}{3\ell^{2}} \right)$$

$$\Delta_{\text{max}} (\text{at center}) \qquad = \frac{W\ell^{3}}{60EI}$$

$$\Delta_{x} \qquad = \frac{Wx}{480EI\ell^{2}} (5\ell^{2} - 4x^{2})^{2}$$

Figure 7 Simple Beam – Concentrated Load at Center





Figure 8 Simple Beam – Concentrated Load at Any Point



$$R_{1} = V_{1} (\max \text{ when } a < b) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pb}{\ell}$$

$$R_{2} = V_{2} (\max \text{ when } a > b) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pa}{\ell}$$

$$M_{\max} (\text{at point of load}) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pab}{\ell}$$

$$M_{x} (\text{when } x < b) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pbx}{\ell}$$

$$\Delta_{\max} \left(\text{at } x = \sqrt{\frac{a(a+2b)}{3}} \text{ when } a > b \right) \qquad = \frac{Pab(a+2b)\sqrt{3a(a+2b)}}{27E!\ell}$$

$$\Delta_{a} (\text{at point of load}) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pa^{2}b^{2}}{3E!\ell}$$

$$\Delta_{x} (\text{when } x < a) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pbx}{6E!\ell} (\ell^{2} - b^{2} - x^{2})$$

$$\Delta_{x} (\text{when } x > a) \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pa(\ell - x)}{6E!\ell} (2\ell x - x^{2} - a^{2})$$

Figure 9 Simple Beam – Two Equal Concentrated Loads Symmetrically Placed



 $R = V \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = P$ $M_{max} \text{ (between loads)} \dots \dots \dots \dots = Pa$ $M_x \text{ (when } x < a) \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = Px$ $\Delta_{max} \text{ (at center)} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{Pa}{24EI} (3\ell^2 - 4a^2)$ $\Delta_x \text{ (when } x < a) \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{Px}{6EI} (3\ell a - 3a^2 - x^2)$ $\Delta_x \text{ (when } x > a \text{ and } < (\ell - a)) \dots \dots = \frac{Pa}{6EI} (3\ell x - 3x^2 - a^2)$

Figure 10 Simple Beam – Two Equal Concentrated Loads Unsymmetrically Placed



 $R_{1} = V_{1} (\max \text{ when } a < b) \dots = \frac{P}{\ell} (\ell - a + b)$ $R_{2} = V_{2} (\max \text{ when } a > b) \dots = \frac{P}{\ell} (\ell - b + a)$ $V_{x} (\text{when } x > a \text{ and } < (\ell - b)) \dots = \frac{P}{\ell} (b - a)$ $M_{1} (\max \text{ when } a > b) \dots = R_{1}a$ $M_{2} (\max \text{ when } a < b) \dots = R_{2}b$ $M_{x} (\text{when } x < a) \dots = R_{1}x$ $M_{x} (\text{when } x > a \text{ and } < (\ell - b)) \dots = R_{1}x - P(x - a)$

Figure 11 Simple Beam – Two Unequal Concentrated Loads Unsymmetrically Placed



 $R_{1} = V_{1} \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad = \frac{P_{1}(\ell - a) + P_{2}b}{\ell}$ $R_{2} = V_{2} \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad = \frac{P_{1}a + P_{2}(\ell - b)}{\ell}$ $V_{x} \quad (\text{when } x > a \text{ and } < (\ell - b)) \quad \dots \quad = R_{1} - P_{1}$ $M_{1} \quad (\text{max when } R_{1} < P_{1}) \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad = R_{1}a$ $M_{2} \quad (\text{max when } R_{2} < P_{2}) \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad = R_{2}b$ $M_{x} \quad (\text{when } x < a) \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad = R_{1}x$ $M_{x} \quad (\text{when } x > a \text{ and } < (\ell - b)) \quad \dots \quad = R_{1}x - P_{1}(x - a)$

Figure 12 Cantilever Beam – Uniformly Distributed Load



R = V . . .		 $w = w\ell$
V_x · · · · · ·		 $\therefore = wx$
M _{max} (at fixed er	nd)	 $\ldots = \frac{w\ell^2}{2}$
M_x		 $\ldots = \frac{wx^2}{2}$
$\Delta_{_{ m max}}$ (at free end	1)	 $\ldots = \frac{w\ell^4}{8EI}$
Δ_x		 $\dots = \frac{w}{24EI}(x^4 - 4\ell^3 x + 3\ell^4)$





$R = V \dots \dots \dots$		•	•	•	•	•	•	= <i>P</i>
M _{max} (at fixed end) .	•	•		•			•	$= P\ell$
M _x	•							= Px
Δ_{\max} (at free end) .	•			•				$=\frac{P\ell^3}{3EI}$
Δ_x			•				•	$= \frac{P}{6EI} (2\ell^3 - 3\ell^2 x + x^3)$

Figure 14Cantilever Beam – Concentrated Load at Any Point



$R = V \dots \dots \dots$		•				•		•	=	Р
M _{max} (at fixed end) .	•				•	•			=	Pb
M_x (when $x > a$).	•		•				•		=	P(x-a)
Δ_{\max} (at free end) .		•		•	•	•	•	•	=	$\frac{Pb^2}{6EI}(3\ell-b)$
Δ_a (at point of load)	•		•		•				=	<u>Pb³</u> 3EI
Δ_x (when $x < a$).		•			•			•	=	$\frac{Pb^2}{6EI}(3\ell-3x-b)$
Δ_x (when $x > a$).	•	•		•			•		=	$\frac{P(\ell-x)^2}{6EI}(3b-\ell+x)$

Figure 15 Beam Fixed at One End, Supported at Other – Uniformly Distributed Load



Figure 16 Beam Fixed at One End, Supported at Other – Concentrated Load at Center





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Figure 17 Beam Fixed at One End, Supported at Other – Concentrated Load at Any Point



$$R_{1} = V_{1} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{Pb^{2}}{2\ell^{3}} (a + 2\ell)$$

$$R_{2} = V_{2} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = R_{1}a$$

$$M_{1} (at point of load) \dots \dots \dots \dots = R_{1}a$$

$$M_{2} (at fixed end) \dots \dots \dots \dots = R_{1}a$$

$$M_{2} (at fixed end) \dots \dots \dots \dots = R_{1}x$$

$$M_{x} (when x < a) \dots \dots \dots \dots = R_{1}x$$

$$M_{x} (when x > a) \dots \dots \dots \dots = R_{1}x - P(x - a)$$

$$\Delta_{max} \left(when a < .414\ell \text{ at } x = \ell \frac{\ell^{2} + a^{2}}{3\ell^{2} - a^{2}} \right) = \frac{Pa}{3EI} \frac{(\ell^{2} - a^{2})^{3}}{(3\ell^{2} - a^{2})^{2}}$$

$$\Delta_{max} \left(when a > .414\ell \text{ at } x = \ell \sqrt{\frac{a}{2\ell + a}} \right) = \frac{Pab^{2}}{6EI} \sqrt{\frac{a}{2\ell + a}}$$

$$\Delta_{a} (at point of load) \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{Pa^{2}b^{3}}{12EI\ell^{3}} (3\ell + a)$$

$$\Delta_{x} (when x < a) \dots \dots \dots = \frac{Pa^{2}b^{3}}{12EI\ell^{3}} (3\ell^{2} - 2\ell x^{2} - ax^{2})$$

$$\Delta_{x} (when x > a) \dots \dots \dots = \frac{Pa}{12EI\ell^{3}} (\ell - x)^{2} (3\ell^{2}x - a^{2}x - 2a^{2}\ell)$$

Figure 18

Beam Overhanging One Support – Uniformly Distributed Load



$$R_{1} = V_{1} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{w}{2\ell}(\ell^{2} - a^{2})$$

$$R_{2} = V_{2} + V_{3} \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{w}{2\ell}(\ell + a)^{2}$$

$$V_{2} \dots \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = wa$$

$$V_{3} \dots \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = wa$$

$$V_{3} \dots \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{w}{2\ell}(\ell^{2} + a^{2})$$

$$V_{x} (between supports) \dots \qquad = R_{1} - wx$$

$$V_{x_{1}} (for overhang) \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = w(a - x_{1})$$

$$M_{1} \left(at \ x = \frac{\ell}{2} \left[1 - \frac{a^{2}}{\ell^{2}}\right]\right) \dots \qquad = \frac{w}{8\ell^{2}}(\ell + a)^{2}(\ell - a)^{2}$$

$$M_{2} (at \ R_{2}) \dots \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{wa^{2}}{2}$$

$$M_{x} (between supports) \dots \qquad = \frac{wx}{2\ell}(\ell^{2} - a^{2} - x\ell)$$

$$M_{x_{1}} (for overhang) \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{wx}{2\ell}(\ell^{4} - 2\ell^{2}x^{2} + \ell x^{3} - 2a^{2}\ell^{2} + 2a^{2}x^{2})$$

$$\Delta_{x_{1}} (for overhang) \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{wx}{24EI}(4a^{2}\ell - \ell^{3} + 6a^{2}x_{1} - 4ax_{1}^{2} + x_{1}^{3})$$

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Figure 19 Beam Overhanging One Support – Uniformly Distributed Load on Overhang



$$R_{1} = V_{1} \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{wa^{2}}{2\ell}$$

$$R_{2} = V_{1} + V_{2} \dots \dots \dots = \frac{wa}{2\ell} (2\ell + a)$$

$$V_{2} \dots \dots \dots \dots = wa$$

$$V_{x_{1}} \text{ (for overhang)} \dots \dots \dots = w(a - x_{1})$$

$$M_{max} (at R_{2}) \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{wa^{2}}{2}$$

$$M_{x} (between supports) \dots \dots = \frac{wa^{2}x}{2\ell}$$

$$M_{x_{1}} (for overhang) \dots \dots \dots = \frac{w}{2} (a - x_{1})^{2}$$

$$\Delta_{max} \left(between supports at x = \frac{\ell}{\sqrt{3}} \right) = \frac{wa^{2}\ell^{2}}{18\sqrt{3}EI} = .03208 \frac{wa^{2}\ell^{2}}{EI}$$

$$\Delta_{max} (for overhang at x_{1} = a) \dots = \frac{wa^{3}}{24EI} (4\ell + 3a)$$

$$\Delta_{x} (between supports) \dots \dots = \frac{wx_{1}}{12EI\ell} (\ell^{2} - x^{2})$$

$$\Delta_{x_{1}} (for overhang) \dots \dots = \frac{wx_{1}}{24EI} (4a^{2}\ell + 6a^{2}x_{1} - 4ax_{1}^{2} + x_{1}^{3})$$

Figure 20 Beam Overhanging One Support – Concentrated Load at End of Overhang



$$R_{1} = V_{1} \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{Pa}{\ell}$$

$$R_{2} = V_{1} + V_{2} \dots \dots \dots = P$$

$$M_{max} (at R_{2}) \dots \dots \dots = Pa$$

$$M_{x} (between supports) \dots \dots = Pa$$

$$M_{x_{1}} (for overhang) \dots \dots = P(a - x_{1})$$

$$\Delta_{max} \left(between supports at x = \frac{\ell}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{Pa\ell^{2}}{9\sqrt{3}EI} = .06415 \frac{Pa\ell^{2}}{EI}$$

$$\Delta_{max} (for overhang at x_{1} = a) \dots = \frac{Pa^{2}}{3EI} (\ell + a)$$

$$\Delta_{x} (between supports) \dots \dots = \frac{Pax}{6EI\ell} (\ell^{2} - x^{2})$$

$$\Delta_{x_{1}} (for overhang) \dots \dots = \frac{Px_{1}}{6EI} (2a\ell + 3ax_{1} - x_{1}^{2})$$

Figure 21 Beam Overhanging One Support – Concentrated Load at Any Point Between Supports



Figure 22 Beam Overhanging Both Supports – Unequal Overhangs – Uniformly Distributed Load



R ₁	$=\frac{w\ell \ (\ell-2c)}{2b}$
R ₂	$=\frac{w\ell \ (\ell-2a)}{2b}$
$V_1 \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ $	= wa
$V_2 \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ $	$= R_1 - V_1$
V_3	$= R_2 - V_4$
V_4	= wc
$V_{\mathbf{x}_1}$	$= V_1 - wx_1$
V_x (when $x < \ell$)	$= R_1 - w(a + x_1)$
V_m (when $a < c$)	$= R_2 - wc$
$M_1 $	$=-\frac{wa^2}{2}$
$M_2 \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots$	$=-\frac{wc^2}{2}$
Μ,	$= R_1 \left(\frac{R_1}{2w} - a \right)$
$M_x\left(\max \text{ when } x = \frac{R_1}{w} - a\right) \dots$	$= R_1 x - \frac{w(a+x)^2}{2}$

Figure 23 Beam Fixed at Both Ends – Uniformly Distributed Load





Figure 24 Beam Fixed at Both Ends – Concentrated Load at Center



$$R = V \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{P}{2}$$

$$M_{\text{max}} \text{ (at center and ends)} \dots \dots = \frac{P\ell}{8}$$

$$M_x \left(\text{when } x < \frac{\ell}{2} \right) \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{P}{8} (4x - \ell)$$

$$\Delta_{\text{max}} \text{ (at center)} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{P\ell^3}{192EI}$$

$$\Delta_x \left(\text{when } x < \frac{\ell}{2} \right) \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots = \frac{Px^2}{48EI} (3\ell - 4x)$$

Figure 25 Beam Fixed at Both Ends – Concentrated Load at Any Point



Figure 26 Continuous Beam – Two Equal Spans – Uniform Load on One Span



$$R_{1} = V_{1} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{7}{16} w\ell$$

$$R_{2} = V_{2} + V_{3} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{5}{8} w\ell$$

$$R_{3} = V_{3} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = -\frac{1}{16} w\ell$$

$$V_{2} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{9}{16} w\ell$$

$$M_{max} \left(\text{at } x = \frac{7}{16} \ell \right) \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{49}{512} w\ell^{2}$$

$$M_{1} (\text{at support } R_{2}) \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{1}{16} w\ell^{2}$$

$$M_{x} (\text{when } x < \ell) \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{wx}{16} (7\ell - 8x)$$

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Figure 27 Continuous Beam – Two Equal Spans – Concentrated Load at Center of One Span



$$R_{1} = V_{1} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{13}{32} P$$

$$R_{2} = V_{2} + V_{3} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{11}{16} P$$

$$R_{3} = V_{3} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = -\frac{3}{32} P$$

$$V_{2} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{19}{32} P$$

$$M_{\text{max}} \text{ (at point of load)} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{13}{64} P\ell$$

$$M_{1} \text{ (at support } R_{2} \text{)} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{3}{32} P\ell$$

Figure 28 Continuous Beam – Two Equal Spans – Concentrated Load at Any Point



$$R_{1} = V_{1} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pb}{4\ell^{3}} \left(4\ell^{2} - a(\ell + a) \right)$$

$$R_{2} = V_{2} + V_{3} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pa}{2\ell^{3}} \left(2\ell^{2} + b(\ell + a) \right)$$

$$R_{3} = V_{3} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = -\frac{Pab}{4\ell^{3}} (\ell + a)$$

$$V_{2} \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pa}{4\ell^{3}} \left(4\ell^{2} + b(\ell + a) \right)$$

$$M_{\text{max}} (\text{at point of load}) \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pab}{4\ell^{3}} \left(4\ell^{2} - a(\ell + a) \right)$$

$$M_{1} (\text{at support } R_{2}) \qquad \dots \qquad \dots \qquad = \frac{Pab}{4\ell^{2}} (\ell + a)$$

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Figure 29 Continuous Beam – Two Equal Spans – Uniformly Distributed Load



$R_1 = V_1 = R_3 = V_3 \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots$	$=\frac{3w\ell}{8}$
R_2	$=\frac{10w\ell}{8}$
$V_2 = V_{max}$	$=\frac{5w\ell}{8}$
M_1	$=\frac{w\ell^2}{8}$
$M_2\left(at \frac{3\ell}{8}\right)$	$=\frac{9w\ell^2}{128}$
Δ_{\max} (at 0.4215 $\ell, \text{ approx. from } R_1 \text{ and } R_3)$.	$=\frac{w\ell^4}{185EI}$

Figure 30 Continuous Beam – Two Equal Spans – Two Equal Concentrated Loads Symmetrically Placed



<i>R</i> ₁	=	V_1	=	= 1	R.,	=	V	′ ₃				•				=	<u>5P</u> 16
R ₂	=	21	V 2	•	•		•	•	•		•				•	=	$\frac{11P}{8}$
V_2	=	Р	_	R	I	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	=	<u>11P</u> 16
$V_{\mathfrak{m}}$	ıx														•	=	V_2
M				•	•	•	•	•			•		•	•	•	=	$-\frac{3P\ell}{16}$
M ₂		•			•		•	•		•		•	•			=	<u>5₽ℓ</u> 32
M _x	(v	vh	en	x	<	a)									=	$R_1 x$

Figure 31 Continuous Beam – Two Unequal Spans – Uniformly Distributed Load





Figure 32 Continuous Beam – Two Unequal Spans – Concentrated Load on Each Span Symmetrically Placed



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$\textbf{A F \& P A^{\tiny (B)}}$

